

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a session, via the Internet, between a user and an application, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of instances of the application on a plurality of servers, each of the instances operating on one of the servers and having a respective Internet address;

the user accessing one of said instances, via the Internet, by means of the Internet address of said one instance;

said one instance selecting one of the instances, according to a defined procedure, for a session with the user;

said accessed one instance sending to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with said selected one instance; and

the user ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with the selected one instance, via the Internet, by using said identifier;

wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the step of selecting one of the instances based on a profile of the user and based on given security rules.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the step of selecting one of the instances based on the geographic location of the user.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the instances has a respective Uniform Resource Locator, and the step of the accessed one instances sending to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with the selected one instance includes the step of said accessed one instance sending to the user the Uniform Resource Locator of said selected one instance.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the accessed one instance includes a first table identifying, for each of a set of users, an associated geographic region, and a second table identifying, for each geographic region identified in the first table, an associated one of the instances, and wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the steps of, ~~the accessed one instance, region identified in the first table, an associated one of the instances, and wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the steps of, the accessed one instance, region identified in the first table, an associated one of the instances, and wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the steps of,~~ the accessed one instance, obtaining from the first table, the geographic region associated with the user; and obtaining from the second table, the instance associated with the obtained geographic region.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said user ~~profiles are~~ profile is configurable.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a session, via the Internet, between a user and an application, comprising:

a plurality of servers providing a plurality of instances of the application, each of the instances operating on one of the servers and having a respective Internet address;

the user accessing one of said instances, via the Internet, by means of the Internet address of said one instance;

said one of said instance including

i) ~~[[means,]]~~ acting in response to said one of said instances being accessed, via the Internet by a user, for selecting one of the instances, according to a defined procedure, for a session with the user, and

ii) ~~means for~~ sending to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with said selected one instance, thereby to enable the user to ~~[[access]]~~ establish a session with the selected one instance, via the Internet, by using said identifier;

wherein the selected one of the instances is selected based on a profile of the user and based on given security rules.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the means for selecting one of the instances includes means for selecting one of the instances based on the geographic location of the user.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 7, wherein each of the instances has a respective Uniform Resource Locator, and ~~the means for sending~~ sends to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with the selected one instance ~~includes means for~~ by sending to the user the Uniform Resource Locator of said selected one instance.

10. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein:
the one of the instances further includes a first table identifying, for each of a set of users, an associated geographic region, and a second table identifying, for each geographic region identified in the first table, an associated one of the instances; and

the means for selecting one of the instances includes

- i) means for obtaining from the first table, the geographic region associated with the user; and
- ii) means for obtaining from the second table, the instance associated with the obtained geographic region.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 7, wherein said user profiles are configurable.

13. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for establishing a session, via the Internet, between a user and an application, said method steps comprising:

providing a plurality of instances of the application on a plurality of servers, each of the instances operating on one of the servers and having a respective Internet address;

the user accessing one of said instances, via the Internet, by means of the Internet address of said one instance;

said one instance selecting one of the instances, according to a defined procedure, for a session with the user;

said accessed one instance sending to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with said selected one instance; and

the user ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with the selected one instance, via the Internet, by using said identifier;

wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the step of selecting of the instances based on a profile of the user and based on given security rules.

14. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the step of selecting one of the instances based on the geographic location of the user.

15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein each of the instances has a respective Uniform Resource Locator, and the step of the accessed one instances sending to the user an identifier for ~~accessing~~ establishing a session with the selected one instance includes the step of said accessed one instance sending to the user the Uniform Resource Locator of said selected one instance.

16. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein the accessed one instance includes a first table identifying, for each of a set of users, an associated geographic region, and a second table identifying, for each geographic region identified in the first table, an associated one of the instances, and wherein the step of selecting one of the instances includes the steps of, the accessed one instance,

obtaining from the first table, the geographic region associated with the user; and

obtaining from the second table, the instance associated with the obtained geographic region.

17. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein:

~~the step of selecting one of the instances includes the step of selecting one of the instances based on user profiles; and~~
said user profiles are configurable .